

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00016 052152Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05

SCCT-01 AID-05 /068 W

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P 052020Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4009

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 0016

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF MONTONERO LEADER ROBERTO QUIETO

1. ROBERTO QUIETO, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE MONTONERO MOVEMENT, DISAPPEARED DEC 28 FROM A LOCAL BEACH WHERE HE WAS RELAXING WITH HIS FAMILY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HE WAS TAKEN WITHOUT A STRUGGLE BY APPROXIMATELY 8 YOUNG MEN, ONE OF WHOM REPORTEDLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "SUBINSPECTOR ROSAS." ALTHOUGH A LEADER OF THE OUTLAWED MONTONEROS, THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC CHARGES PENDING AGAINST QUIETO AND SO FAR AS IS KNOWN NO WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST. QUIETO'S WHEREABOUTS REMAIN A MYSTERY AND FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICE DENY THAT THEY HAVE HIM IN CUSTODY. QUIETO'S WIFE HAS FILED FOUR HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS WITH VARIOUS AUTHORITIES, NONE OF WHICH HAS, AS YET, BEEN ANSWERED.

2. PRESS SOURCES HAVE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THE NIGHT OF THE DISAPPEARANCE SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MONTONEROS DENOUNCING QUIETO'S DISAPPEARANCE. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO DISCREDIT ONE THEORY ABOUT THIS DISAPPEARANCE THAT HAS BEEN MENTIONED: THAT HE WAS "DETAINED" BY THE MONTONEROS THEMSELVES IN AN INTERNAL DISPUTE.

3. COMMENT: MOST OBSERVERS FEEL THAT QUIETO WAS ABDUCTED BY THE POLICE AND/OR RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00016 052152Z

(READ, TRIPLE A) AND IS PROBABLY DEAD. THE PRESENT

UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HIS FATE, HOWEVER, RAISES A DISTURBING
POSSIBILITY. RECENT MILITARY AND POLICE ANTI-GUERRILLA
ACTIVITIES HAVE RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF A NUMBER OF
TERRORISTS WHOM THE GUERRILLAS MIGHT WELL WANT BACK OR
WHOSE FATE THEY MIGHT WISH CLARIFIED FOR PROPAGANDA
PURPOSES--AS IN THE EGAN CASE. THEREFORE, THE GUERRILLAS
MIGHT LOGICALLY BE LOOKING FOR POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING TARGETS
FOR AN EXCHANGE. AS A RESULT, NERVOUSNESS IN THE DIPLOMATIC
COMMUNITY IS HIGHER THAN USUAL.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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